

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 05785 171151 Z

53

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 AID-20 COME-00

EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 AGR-20 SCS-03 SCA-01 OPR-02 RSR-01

/124 W

----- 088741

R 170830 Z MAY 73 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4414

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 5785

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJ: BOMBAY BANDH TURNS VIOLENT

FOLLOWING BOMBAY TEL RPTD FOR YOUR INFO

DE RUSBAY #0984 1360745
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P R 160704 Z MAY 73
FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY
TO RUSBAE/ AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 7768
INFO RUSBTA/ AMCONSUL CALCUTTA 1265
RUSBAS/ AMCONSUL MADRAS 1305

C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOMBAY 984

E. P. N/ A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJ: BOMBAY BANDH

REF: BOMBAY 977 (NOTAL)

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1. MAY 15 BOMBAY BANDH CALLED BY AITUC, UTUC AND SOME MARXIST SPLINTER GROUPS TO (A) PROTEST GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE IN CURRENT FOOD SITUATION AND (B) HIGH PRICES, ENJOYED ONLY LIMITED SUCCESS AND SEEMS, AT FIRST GLANCE, UNLIKELY TO HAVE ANY POSITIVE RESULTS. ACCORDING TO LATEST FIGURES, OF TOTAL 259 FACTORIES IN BOMBAY, 58 COMPLETELY CLOSED AND 52 PARTIALLY AFFECTED, WITH 149 FUNCTIONING NORMALLY. 12-14 TEXTILE MILLS CLOSED (8 REPORTEDLY AS RESULT POWER CUT), 28 WORKED WITH INCOMPLETE COMPLEMENT AND 14 OPERATED AS USUAL. PORT WORKERS AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES WORKED, WHILE BUS AND TAXI SERVICES SUFFERED ONLY MINOR DISRUPTIONS. IN SUBURBAN THANA, WHERE JANA SANGH CALLED BANDH, AN ESTIMATED 33 PERCENT OF WORK FORCE FAILED TO REPORT FOR WORK.

2. IT IS GENERALLY FELT HERE THAT POOR RESPONSE TO STRIKE CALL PROMPTED ORGANIZERS TO RESORT TO VIOLENCE IN DOWNTOWN AREA WHERE AN ESTIMATED 300 VEHICLES DAMAGED. SEVERAL BUSES IMMOBILIZED AND AT LEAST ONE PARTIALLY BURNED WHILE GOOD MANY STORES IN AREA WHERE STRIKERS CONCENTRATED HAD SHOW WINDOWS BROKEN.

3. INDIAN EXPRESS (OTHER LOCAL PAPERS UNABLE PUBLISH BECAUSE OF BANDH) REPORTS 172 PERSONS ARRESTED AND 485 " BAD CHARACTERS" ROUNDED UP MAY 14 IN PRECAUTIONARY STEP. EXPRESS REPORTS POLICE " STRANGELY INACTIVE" DURING THE EARLY PART OF VIOLENCE, TENDING CONFIRM SPECULATION POLICE PURPOSEDLY DID NOT CONTAIN CROWD SINCE VIOLENT REACTION WOULD TEND DISCREDIT COMMUNISTS.

4. RESPONSIBLE LOCAL TRADE UNIONISTS APPARENTLY FELT THAT BANDH COULD ACCOMPLISH NOTHING AND REFRAINED FROM TAKING PART. MANY OF THESE ARE QUICK TO CRITICIZE GOVERNMENT'S FOOD POLICIES BUT FELT ONE- DAY STRIKE IS NOT WAY TO FORCE SOLUTION. (MANIBEN KARA, FOR EXAMPLE, INFORMED US RECENTLY THAT INCREASED WHEAT RATION NOW INSURES WORKING MAN AN ADEQUATE RATION, IF, OF COURSE, HE GETS IT.) OTHER RESPONSIBLE BOMBAYITES HIGHLY INDIGNANT OVER THIS BLATANT HOOLIGANISM AND LEADERS' ACTION IN PROVOKING CROWD MIGHT WELL BE COUNTER- PRODUCTIVE.

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5. MORE TO THE POINT, PERHAPS, ANTI- COMMUNIST LEADERS DID NOT WANT TO TAKE CHANGE ON COMMUNISTS CLAIMING CREDIT FOR A SUCCESSFUL DEMONSTRATION AND CHOSE THEREFORE TO PULL RUG OUT FROM UNDER MOVEMENT. PROOF OF THIS MAY BE SEEN IN SCHEDULING OF ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION ON EXACTLY THE SAME GROUND BY ANTI- COMMIE GEORGE FERNANDES OF HMP ON MAY 25 AND JANA SANGH MAY 30.

BANE

SCHNEIDER

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NMAFVVZCZ

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